PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN THIS EDITION

The importance of changes in the preparation and review of grant applications that NSF has made in recent years cannot be exaggerated. Collectively, they constitute a true paradigm shift. Those changes, which are covered in this edition of *The Grant Application Writer's Workbook,* NSF Fastlane version, include:

Redefinition of Merit Review Criteria

Requirement of Preliminary Proposals by Some Divisions

New Approach to Writing the Project Summary

Changes in How Parts of the Project Description are Written

An Important Change in the Biographical Sketch

Enforcement of Prohibition of Voluntary Committed Cost Sharing

Use of the Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources and the Current & Pending Support Sections to Avoid Proposing Voluntary Committed Cost Sharing

How to Prepare a Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan, When it is Needed

How to Write a Data Management Plan

We are not usually given to hyperbole, but in this case it is warranted: In our opinion, these changes are – without question – the most important and positive ones NSF has made in the preparation and review of grant applications since we first began submitting research-grant proposals in 1972.

Let us now guide you in terms of exploiting these changes, thereby helping to give your application a competitive advantage.